

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method for managing configuration information in a storage controller, the method comprising:

~~connecting a removable non-volatile memory module to a first storage controller; and setting, by an operator, backup parameters that define how a backup operation will be executed; invoking a backup operation using the backup parameters; and responsive to a given event[[],]:~~

~~determining if a removable non-volatile memory module is connected to a first storage controller; and~~

~~responsive to the removable non-volatile memory module being connected to the first storage controller, executing the backup operation to store configuration information from the first storage controller to the removable non-volatile memory module.~~

2. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~backup operation is invoked by given event is one of an expiration of a period of time and an express instruction that was entered by [[from]] an operator.~~

3. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the given event is ~~an express a command that was entered by [[from]] an operator through one of interface software and a boot menu console.~~

4. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the first storage controller.~~

5. (Currently amended): The method of claim 4, wherein the restore event is ~~an express a command that was entered by [[from]] an operator through one of interface software and a boot menu console.~~

6. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~disconnecting the removable non-volatile memory module from the first storage controller.~~

7. (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising:
connecting the removable non-volatile memory module to a second storage controller.
8. (Original): The method of claim 7, further comprising:
responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the second storage controller.
9. (Currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the restore event is ~~an express a command that was entered by [[from]]~~ an operator through one of interface software and a boot menu console.
10. (Original): The method of claim 7, further comprising:
determining whether the configuration information is compatible with the second storage controller; and
responsive to the configuration information not being compatible with the second storage controller, notifying an operator of incompatible configuration information.
11. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration information includes at least one of configuration data, firmware, bootware images, and component summary data.
12. (Currently amended): A storage controller, comprising:
a processor;
a memory electrically coupled to the processor;
an externally accessible socket interface, wherein the externally accessible socket interface provides an electrical connection to the processor; ~~[[and]]~~
~~backup parameters, set by an operator, that define how a backup operation will be executed;~~
~~invoking means for invoking a backup operation using the backup parameters; and~~
~~responsive to a given event:~~
~~determining means for determining if a removable non-volatile memory module is electrically coupled to the processor through the externally accessible socket interface; and~~
~~responsive to the removable non-volatile memory module being electrically coupled to the processor, executing the backup operation to store~~
~~a removable non-volatile memory module electrically coupled to the processor through the externally accessible socket interface;~~

~~wherein the processor, responsive to a given event, stores configuration information from the memory to the removable non-volatile memory module.~~

13. (Original): The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the externally accessible socket interface is a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association card slot.

14. (Currently amended): The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the backup operation is invoked by given event is one of an expiration of a period of time and an express instruction that was entered by [[from]] an operator.

15. (Original): The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the configuration information includes at least one of configuration data, firmware, bootware images, and component summary data.

16. (Original): The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the removable non-volatile memory module is a flash memory module.

17. (Original): The storage controller of claim 16, wherein the flash memory module has a flash file system format for storing data.

18. (Currently amended): An apparatus for managing configuration information in a storage controller, the apparatus comprising:

means for setting, by an operator, backup parameters that define how a backup operation will be executed;

means for invoking a backup operation using the backup parameters; and

means for connecting a removable non-volatile memory module to a first storage controller; and

means, responsive to a given event, for:

determining if a removable non-volatile memory module is connected to a first storage controller; and

responsive to the removable non-volatile memory module being connected to the first storage controller, executing the backup operation to store configuration information from the first storage controller to the removable non-volatile memory module.

19. (Original): The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:
responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the first storage controller.
20. (Original): The method of claim 18, further comprising:
responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to a second storage controller.